(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how much FDI has been induced in this industry and how many of them have been established in UP, particularly in and around Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crore occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure/cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

Survey conducted for Uttar Pradesh indicates that the State is the largest producer of mango, aonla, peas and sweet potato. It is ranked sixth in vegetable production and eighth in fruit production in the country. The value of horticulture produce, at whole sale prices, works out to about Rs. 10,000 crore in the State and the post-harvest losses work out to Rs. 2000 crore. This offers a great potential for investment in post-harvest management, cold chain, distribution network for perishables and processing of horticulture produce.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support of R & D, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like taxation reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries.

As per information available, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflow in Food Processing Sector has increased from Rs. 176 crores during 2004-05 to Rs. 441 crores during 2006-07.

Utilisation of funds by scientific and technological institutions

4004. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the BE and RE allocations in respect of scientific and technological institutions have remained underutilized, if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for such under utilization and whether Government has identified the bottlenecks causing such under utilization; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the utilization of allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Budget Estimates (BE) and Revised Estimates (RE) allocations in a few scientific and technological institutions funded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development remain underutilized largely because

of unspent balance, shortage of faculty, limit fixed in the block grants scheme and non-implementation of Oversight Committee recommendation for reservation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Centrally Funded Institutions (CFIs). In order to improve the utilization of allocations, efforts are made to fix Budget Estimates and Plan Revised Estimates, keeping in view the status of unspent balance and other requirements of the CFIs.

Assistance to voluntary organisations under SSA

4005. SHRIGIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many voluntary organisations were provided assistance under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by the Ministry during the last three years; and

(b) the number and the details of blocks and villages in Andhra Pradesh where this abhiyan is being conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) During the last three years 36 voluntary organisations spread over the country were provided assistance under the scheme "Innovative and Experimental Education" of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by the Ministry.

(b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in all districts of the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

Industrial training centres in Maharashtra

4006. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has decided to set up 20 Industrial Training Centres for the minority students in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the permission has also been given for 94 religious minority organisations and 74 language minority organisations among which 68 organisations belong to Muslim community; and

(d) if so, by when these Centres are likely to be started and whether different minority Students would also be enrolled in these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to information furnished by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (DGE&T), under whose purview the subject of Industrial Training Centres/Institutes fall, the State Government of Maharashtra has a proposal of setting up of 20 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for the Minorities. According to that Ministry, the State Government has also given permission to 36 Industrial Training Centres (ITCs) of Minority organizations out of which 19 belong to the Muslim community, all of which have become functional.